

Pure Joy: Pursuing the Prize; part 2 (Philippians 3:17-21)

1. Examples of Christlikeness (vs.17)

- A. We will need _____ of Christlikeness to follow
 - 1. **Example:** we need examples of ones who have walked where we are walking
 - 2. **Hebrews 12:1-3; 13:7**
- B. Paul's example, not _____
 - 1. Paul did not say he was perfect, but was an example of Christlikeness to follow
 - 2. Those of the pattern of Paul – those of the past and those among us now
 - *Heroes of the faith... Elders and Deacons responsibility...

2. Enemies of the Cross (vs.18-19)

- A. We will face false Christians who are _____ of the cross of Christ
 - 1. **Acts 20:28-31; Gal. 2:4; Phil 3:2; 2Pe 2:1-10; Jude 4,11-13**
 - 2. These are spiritual terrorists, hidden (Jude 12) among God's true people:
 - *enemy = hateful, hostile, adversary; **2Cor 11:13-15**
- B. There are _____ enemies of the cross within the community of the Church
 - 1. **Notice**, Paul writes this actually weeping as he writes the Philippians; grieved him greatly!
 - 2. There are many false Christians who are enemies (**Matt 7:13,14, 21-23; Luke 13:23-28**)
- C. The distinguishing _____ and focus of these enemies
 - 1. Their end is destruction (Phil 3:19); they are headed for hell (2Pe 2:9)
 - 2. Their god is their appetite/belly – their god is their own lusts and desires, **Romans 6:16**
 - 3. Their glory is in their shame – they glory in things that are shameful; **Eph 5:5-6, 11-12**
 - 4. They set their minds on earthly things – focused on the things of the world; their heart is here
 - *Where do they set/focus their minds? But what has Paul told us we do? ***1Jn 2:15,16; Rm 8:6**

3. Eager Citizens (vs.20-21)

- A. We will not walk this road _____ (**Phil 1:27-30**)
 - *Christianity was never meant to walk alone; it cannot be lived this way
- B. The distinguishing marks and focus of _____ believers
 - 1. Our focus is on eternity and Jesus Christ (**Phil. 3:3; Col 3:1-4; Matt 6:21,24,33**)
 - 2. We see our citizenship and home is in heaven (**Phil 3:20; Ex. Gen 41:52**)
 - 3. We are eagerly waiting for Christ's return (**Luke 12:35-48**)
 - *We are not passively waiting for Christ to return, we are busy getting ready!
 - *When we see Him, He will give our bodies a new schematic, one like His!